

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE: U.S.S.N. 09/397,110

FILED: September 16, 1999

TITLE: PROCESS AND MATERIALS FOR
THE RAPID DETECTION OF
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE
EMPLOYING PURIFIED
ANTIGEN-SPECIFIC
ANTIBODIES

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GROUP ART UNIT: 1645

EXAMINER: Ginny Portner



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FEB 01 2001

TECH CENT

REQUEST TO OFFICE ACTION
MAILED NOVEMBER 30, 2000

Preliminarily, certain inadvertent typographical errors and omissions have been noted in the application. Accordingly, please make the following corrections.

At page 10, line 7, Please correct "beabout" to --be about--.

In the same line, after "Antibodies were" please insert the words --passed over--.

page 10, line 10, please correct the word appearing as "a" to read --an--. ??

page 10, line 13, please correct the spelling of the word appearing s "hydrozine" to --hydrazine--.

In the same line, please replace the word "table" with --labile--.

page 10, line 14, please change "ligane" to --ligand--.

page 24, line 8, please add a close parenthesis --) -- at the end of the sentence.

page 24, line 18, please delete the word "of" and substitute --and-- for it.

page 25, line 2, please, please delete "wutg" and substitute the word --who--.

page 25, line 14, After "results" please insert --yielded.

page 17, After "assessed" please insert --as-- and after "samples" please insert --that--.

Page 29, last line, please change "6" to --5-- and "7" to --6--.

page 30, line 11, please change "5" to --6--.

page 30, line 12, please change "6" to --7--.

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Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Once Amended) A method of assaying for the presence of *S. pneumoniae* or its cell wall C-polysaccharide antigen in a fluid, which method comprises the steps of:

- a1
- (a) extracting from a culture of *S. pneumoniae* bacteria according to the method set forth in Claim 1 the cell wall C- polysaccharide antigen thereof containing not more than about 10% protein,
 - (b) coupling said antigen to a spacer molecule to form a conjugate,
 - (c) coupling the conjugate from step (b) to a chromatographic affinity column,
 - (d) purifying raw antibodies to *S. pneumoniae* bacteria with the chromatographic affinity column of step (c) to produce purified antigen-specific antibodies; and
 - (e) using the purified antibodies of step (d) to detect the presence or absence of *S. pneumoniae* or its C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen in a fluid.